

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5950

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

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USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: OPPOSITION DISPLEASURE WITH SAHARA
ARRANGEMENTS

1. AMID GOM AND SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA EXUBERANCE OVER "SUCCESS"
THUS FAR OF SAHAR CAMPAIGN, OPPOSITION HAS FINALLY MANAGED
SOME AUDIBLE GRUMBLES ABOUT MOROCCAN DIPLOMATIC ARRANGEMENTS:
A. MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN ENTENTE. EDITORIAL IN ISTIQLAL PARTY DAILY
L'OPINION JULY 11 CATALOGUED PAST ALGERIAN SINS ON SAHARA QUESTION
AND THREW COLD WATER ON GOM-GOA RAPPROCHEMENT. THINGS SEEM
BETTER NOW, EDITORIAL SAID, BUT GOA HAS STILL NOT RECOGNIZED THAT
SAHARA IS MOROCCAN (AS OPPOSED TO ARAB OR MAGHREBI).
FURTHERMORE, ANY ASSISTANCE MOROCCO MIGHT RECEIVE FROM
ALGERIA IS ONLY LATTER'S DUTY AND "IN NO WAY SIGNIFIES MOROCCAN
ABANDONMENT OF ITS RIGHTS TO ITS TERRITORIES IN THE EAST" (I.E.

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AREAS ACCRUING TO ALGERIA IN 1972 BORDER AGREEMENT). IT IS UP TO

ALGERIANS, EDITORIAL CONCLUDED, TO ELIMINATE OBSTACLES TO REAL COOPERATION. ADDITIONAL STONE CAST AT ALGERIANS IN SAME EDITION WAS PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED TEXT OF ISTIQLAL'S REPLY TO FLN INVITATION FOR SAHARA TALKS, WHICH TERMED PROPOSAL "INADMISSABLE INTERFERENCE IN PURELY MOROCCAN AFFAIRS." USFP'S JULY 10 AL-MOHARRIR ALSO REFERRED TO "USURPED REGIONS IN THE EAST."

B. MAURITANIAN-MOROCCAN COOPERATION. ISTIQLAL AND USFP PRESS BOTH EXPRESSED PAGE ONE ASTONISHMENT OVER MAURITANIAN ICJ PRESENTATION WHICH ENDED JULY 10. BASIS THEIR UNHAPPINESS IS REPORTED THRUST OF MAURITANIAN ARGUMENTATION THAT MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SAHARA HISTORICALLY LIMITED TO SAQUIET EL HAMRA AND THAT REST OF AREA HAD TIES TO WHAT IS PRESENTLY MAURITANIA. L'OPINION COMMENTED THAT MAURITANIA CREATING IMPRESSION THAT ICJ PROCEEDINGS ARE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, CONTRARY TO REAL QUESTIONS BEFORE COURT, THEREBY BRINGING TOTAL CONFUSION TO PROCEEDINGS. MAURITANIAN MANEUVER PREMEDITATED AND LONG EXPECTED, PAPER SAID. AL MOHARRIR DESCRIBED MAURITANIAN PRESENTATION AS ATTACK AND VOLTE FACE.

C. MEANWHILE, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS COVERED MAURITANIAN ICJ PRESENTATION IN MORE FAVORABLE LIGHT VIA INSIDE PAGE AFP ITEM, ALTHOUGH NOTING MAURITANIAN CASE MADE DISTINCTION BETWEEN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN PARTS OF SAHARA.

2. COMMENT: ACERBIC OPPOSITION COMMENTS ON SAHARA ARRANGEMENTS AND ON ALGERIANS AND MAURITANIANS, FIRST TO BE PUBLISHED SINCE BOUTEFLIKA VISIT, STAND IN STARK CONTRAST TO OFFICIAL MEDIA LINE AND FALL INTO SAME CATEGORY OF EDITORIALIZING WHICH PRESUMABLY PRECIPITATED SPATE OF RECENT PRESS SEIZURES. THEIR APPEARANCE NOW MAY BE INDICATION OF GOM'S SELF-CONFIDENCE OR SIMPLY FAMILIAR PALACE EXPLOITATION OF OPPOSITION WRATH AS PRESSURE DEVICE, IN THIS CASE AGAINST ALGERIANS AND MAURITANIANS.

3. DIVERGENCE OF GOM AND GIRM ICJ PRESENTATIONS COULD BE CONSTRUED AS REFLECTING SAHARA "PARTITION DEAL", ALTHOUGH PERHAPS MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT TWO SIDES STILL MANEUVERING OVER FUTURE BOUNDARY AND MAURITANIANS MAY SEE NEED FOR GOING ON PUBLIC RECORD WITH A GEOGRAPHIC CLAIM TO HELP KEEP GOM HONEST.

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